

TESTIMONY TO CALFED
Public Hearing
Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel
Costa Mesa, California
September 2, 1999

Presented by Wayne T. McMurray
President of the Board of Directors
Coastal Municipal Water District

Good evening. I am Wayne McMurray. I serve as the President of the Board of Directors for Coastal Municipal Water District. I am also one of Coastal's two representatives on the Metropolitan Water District Board.

Coastal is one of the 27 member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Our District is responsible for providing a reliable supply of high quality imported water to the south coastal area of Orange County, including the cities of San Clemente, Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Newport Beach and portions of Irvine and Costa Mesa.

At the outset, I want to commend you for making the most of the environmental review process, particularly for taking the time to receive local input on the CALFED program from those of us here in Orange County. I also want to complement you on the comprehensive environmental review documents that you have made available. However, I address you tonight because Coastal has several significant concerns with the CALFED environmental documents.

The area Coastal serves is home to some of California's most beautiful beaches and coastal communities. We have limited local water supplies in the Coastal area. While we have done more than most to invest in reclamation and conservation programs to stretch our

supplies, it is a fact that millions of people visit our area every year. Those visitors, together with the business people who work in the Coastal area and the families that live there, depend on the continued availability of imported water supplies. Consequently, we (together with others in the State) have invested significantly to construct and maintain a reliable imported water supply system. One part of that imported water system – the Bay-Delta – has been broken for a long time. We are concerned that the CALFED program described in your environmental documents does little to fix the Bay-Delta.

We in Orange County believe that in order to deliver the water supply and water quality to the public, the following commitments must be included in the CALFED plan and in the environmental documents prior to the Record of Decision.

➤ **We need a CALFED commitment to meet Orange County's water supply requirements.**

- ✓ We need assurance that CALFED will deliver drinking water quality that meets all future federal and state regulations for public health protection.
- ✓ We need assurance that CALFED will deliver water quality that meets 150 milligrams per liter total dissolved solids in order to continue to enhance recycling in Coastal's service area, and to promote and expand conjunctive use opportunities.
- ✓ We need assurance that the Banks Pumping Plant will be permitted to operate at 8,500 cfs in the first two years of Stage 1 and that Banks' permitted capacity will be at 10,300 cfs by the end of Stage 1.
- ✓ We need assurance that the Preferred Alternative will result in Metropolitan receiving a minimum of 650,000 acre feet of firm dry-year

yield from the State Water Project by 2020.

- **We need a CALFED commitment that statewide funding, including public funds and federal funds, will be provided for the environmental and recreational costs of the CALFED solution.**

So far, the CALFED environmental documents have not addressed these concerns.

Consequently, on behalf of the customers we serve, the Coastal Municipal Water District cannot support certification of the CALFED Environmental Documents at this time.

Thank you.